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Issued: September 16, 2016

**NOTICE OF
DRAFT COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AVAILABILITY
AND
PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING**

**In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for a Route
Permit for the Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline Project in Olmsted County**

PUC Docket Number: G-011/GP-15-858

Meeting Information

DATE: September 28, 2016
TIMES: 2:00pm & 6:00pm
LOCATION: Kahler Apache Hotel
1517 16th Street SW
Rochester, MN

Submit Comments

Comment Period: Comments on the Draft Comparative Environmental Analysis must be received electronically or postmarked by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 7, 2016**. Please include the PUC Docket Number (15-858) in all communications.

Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Email: larry.hartman@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul MN, 55101

Fax: 651-539-0109

Comments will be made available to the public via the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a route permit to construct approximately 13.1 miles of high pressure natural gas pipeline and associated facilities in and around Rochester, Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) has issued a Comparative Environmental Analysis (CEA) in draft form that analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, and methods to mitigate such impacts. This public meeting has been scheduled to receive comments on the document, as well to explain the route designation process, present major issues, and respond to questions raised by the public.

In order to construct the project, MERC must obtain a route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Prior to its decision, DOC and the Public Utilities Commission will hold a joint public and evidentiary hearing for the project in the area. A notice of the public and evidentiary hearing will be issued separately.

For More Information

An electronic version of the draft CEA and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing at:

- the DOC's website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34318>
- the eDockets electronic filing system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>
(Use search terms "15" for the year, and "858" for the docket number)

Printed copies of the draft CEA are available at the following locations:

- Rochester Township Hall, 4111 SW 11th Avenue, Rochester
- Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd Street SE, Rochester

Project Contacts

Department of Commerce for questions regarding the DCEA or for more information:

Larry Hartman – Larry.Hartman@state.mn.us or 651-539-1839

Andrew Levi – Andrew.Levi@state.mn.us or 651-539-1840

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for questions regarding the permit approval process:

Kevin George – Kevin.George@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251

Michael Kaluzniak – Mike.Kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-539-1530.

